Reach Riders Group Festive Ride Risk Assessment

	What hazards do you perceive might be experienced while undertaking this activity preparing for it or clearing up afterwards? What is the likelihood of these hazards occurring?	What are the risks associated with these hazards?	How do you propose to avoid or reduce exposure to the risk? What are the contol measures?
1	Route of Ride blocked or inaccessible	Horses and ponies unable to complete the Ride	The proposed route/s of the Ride will be examined prior to the route of the Ride being advertised to ensure that the route/s is appropriate and clear of obstacles. The proposed route/s will be re-examined one week before the Ride to ensure that no obstacles have subsequently occurred e.g. fallen tree. Even a route which is wholly road-based will be examined at least the week before the Ride as there may be adjacent hazards e.g. building with scaffolding, farm machinery.
2	Rider not competent	Rider unable to control their mount endangering themselves, their mount and others	At the time of advertising the Ride the following information will be posted on the RRG website: - While the Reach Riders Group (RRG) have organized the Ride, the Ride is not supervised and riders are wholly responsible for themselves and their mount. The RRG takes no responsibility for any part of the Ride and riders participate at their own risk. - Riders under the age of 16 should be accompanied by a responsible adult. - Riders and their mounts should each be appropriately insured. - Hi viz should be worn by riders and their mounts. - Prior to the day of the Ride, riders should familiarise themselves with the route. - If adverse weather is forecast a note will be sent out (via RRG FB, Reach Village FB, Reach Village email) the day before the Ride cancelling the Ride. Do make your own assessment of the weather conditions. - Assemble on Fair Green, Reach, from 11am and the Ride will commence at 11.15am (forward going horses) and 11.30 (all other horses and lead-rein ponies).
3	Riders' lack of knowledge of the Ride and therefore unable to assess their ability to complete the Ride; potential to take the wrong route	Riders unable to complete the Ride e.g. due to its distance; some of the obstacles on route	At the time of advertising the Ride the following information will be posted on the RRG website: - A map of the route/s. - A general description of the route/s including its length. - Individual description and photographs of obstacles on the route.
4	Horse spooked	Rider dismounted, possibly injured and unable to complete the Ride.	At least one person will accompany the riders to be on hand to offer assistance and support if a rider gets into difficulty or simply wants to turn back. This person will have the telephone number/s of others so that they can readily report any incident and receive any appropriate back up.

		Horse loose.	
5	Mixed ability riders	Young riders unable to complete a long route	At the time of advertising the Ride the following information will be posted on the RRG website: - Route for young riders - Route for experienced riders Note each route should be accompanied by at least one person who will accompany the riders to be on hand to offer assistance and support if a rider gets into difficultly This person will have the telephone number/s of others so that they can readily report any incident and receive any appropriate back up.
6	Adverse weather	Ice, cold, wind, heavy rain	The weather forecast will be consulted about 1 week in advance of the Ride to have a general understanding of the likely weather conditions. The weather forecast will be consulted the day before the Ride Depending on the forecast e.g. high winds: - A note will be sent out via all the avenues (RRG FB, Reach Village FB, Reach Village email) that have been used to advertise the Ride cancelling the Ride or warning riders that the weather may be inclement - The note will be sent out by noon the day before the Ride